

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An input device, comprising:  
a plurality of function switches each provided  
corresponding to a plurality of electronic devices for  
selecting one of these devices;

a controller unit for controlling the electronic  
devices;

a first warning unit for generating warning signals  
for informing an operator of the function switches of a  
mistaken action on the function switches; and

a mistake counter means for monitoring the  
operation on the function switches to count and store the  
number of mistakes on each of the function switches,  
wherein

the mistake counter means increments the counted  
number of mistakes by determining, when one of the function  
switches is operated within a predetermined period of time  
after another function switch has been operated, that the  
preceding switch operation is a mistake; and

the controller unit instructs the first warning  
unit to generate the warning signals when the counted  
number of mistakes reaches a predetermined threshold  
number.

2. An input device according to claim 1, wherein  
the controller unit allows the electronic device selected  
by a function switch operated in the first action to be  
replaced with another device assigned to another function

switch after generating the warning signals.

3. An input device, comprising:

a plurality of function switches each provided corresponding to a plurality of electronic devices for selecting one of the devices;

a controller unit for controlling the electronic devices; and

a mistake counter means for monitoring the operation on the function switches to count and store the number of mistakes for each of the function switches, wherein

the mistake counter means increments the counted number of mistakes by determining, when one of the function switches is operated within a predetermined period of time after another function switch has been operated, that the preceding switch operation is a mistake; and

the controller unit replaces the assigned electronic device selected by the function switch operated in the preceding action with another electronic device selected by another function switch, when the counted number of mistakes reaches a predetermined threshold number.

4. An input device according to claim 3, further comprising a second warning unit for generating notification signals for informing an operator of the function switches of the automatic reassignment of the electronic device, wherein

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the controller unit instructs the second warning unit to generate the notification signals when the device reassignment has been performed.

5. An input device according to claim 1, wherein the function switches are provided in a console box and the electronic devices selected by the function switches are electric components equipped in an automobile.

6. An input device according to claim 2, wherein the function switches are provided in a console box and the electronic devices selected by the function switches are the electric components equipped in an automobile.

7. An input device according to claim 3, wherein the function switches are provided in a console box and the electronic devices selected by the function switches are the electric components equipped in an automobile.

8. An input device according to claim 4, in which:  
the function switches are provided in an instrument panel and the electronic devices selected by the function switches are the electric components equipped in an automobile.

9. An input device, comprising:

a plurality of function switches each provided corresponding to a plurality of electronic devices for selecting one of these devices;

a manual operating pad manipulatable in two or more directions for selecting a functionality of the electronic devices by the operating direction;

a controller unit for instructing the electronic devices to execute the function;

a first warning unit for generating warning signals for informing an operator of the manual operating pad of a mistaken action on the manual operating pad; and

a mistake counter means for monitoring the operation on the manual operating pad by the operator to count and store the number of mistakes in each operating direction of the manual operating pad, wherein

the mistake counter means increments the counted number of mistakes in an operating direction by determining, when the manual operating pad is operated in a direction within a predetermined period of time after the pad has been operated in another direction, that the preceding operation is a mistake; and

the controller unit instructs the first warning unit to generate the warning signals when the counted number of mistakes reaches a predetermined threshold number.

10. An input device according to claim 9, wherein the assignment of the electronic device selected by the preceding action to an operating direction can be swapped with another assignment of another device selected in another direction by means of the controller unit after generating the warning signals.

11. An input device, comprising:

a plurality of function switches each provided

corresponding to a plurality of electronic devices for selecting one of the devices;

a manual operating pad manipulatable in two or more directions for selecting a functionality of the electronic devices by the operating direction;

a controller unit for instructing the electronic devices to execute the function; and

a mistake counter means for monitoring the operation on the manual operating pad by the operator to count and store the number of mistakes in each operating direction of the manual operating pad, wherein

the mistake counter means increments the counted number of mistakes in an operating direction by determining, when the manual operating pad is operated in a direction within a predetermined period of time after the manual operating pad has been operated in another direction, that the preceding switch operation is a mistake; and

the controller unit replaces the function selected by the operating direction in a preceding action with another function selected in a succeeding action when the counted number of mistakes reaches a predetermined threshold number.

505 a37 12. An input device according to claim 8, further comprising:

a second warning unit for generating notification signals for informing the operator of the reassignment

done; wherein

the controller unit instructs the second warning unit to generate the notification signals when the device reassignment has been performed.

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13. An input device according to claim 9, wherein the function switches and the manual operating pad are mounted in a console box of an automobile and the electronic devices are electric components equipped on board selected by the function switches, as well as the functions are individual functions of each of the electric components in an automobile.

14. An input device according to claim 10, wherein the function switches and the manual operating pad are provided mounted in a console box and the electronic devices selected by the function switches are electric components equipped in an automobile, as well as the functions are individual functions of each of the electric components in an automobile.

15. An input device according to claim 11, wherein the function switches and the manual operating pad are provided mounted in a console box and the electronic devices selected by the function switches are electric components equipped in an automobile, as well as the functions are individual functions of each of the electric components in an automobile.

16. An input device according to claim 12, wherein the function switches and the manual operating pad are

provided mounted in a console box and the electronic devices selected by the function switches are electric components equipped in an automobile, as well as the functions are individual functions of each of the electric components in an automobile.

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